



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: 651-602-7900 Fax: 651-602-7914

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**Transmitted via Email**

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-05-25

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – AGRICULTURE PRODUCER DEFINITION

Purpose. To provide guidance to the agricultural definition for forest producers.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

To be eligible for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), a person must be determined as an “agricultural producer engaged in livestock or agricultural production”.

National Headquarters (NHQ) has provided additional guidance to the agricultural producer determination for EQIP. Specifically, forest producers are not required to meet the minimum of \$1,000 of agricultural products sold for two of the last five years, or provide IRS Schedule F form. They can be determined as an agricultural producer by meeting one of the three items listed below.

To be considered an eligible producer, producers with forest land must have one of the following:

- A forest management plan or forest stewardship plan.
- A prior record of timber harvest or revenue from timber sales.
- Proof of capital investment on forest practices such as:
  - Tree plantings.
  - Forest stand improvement.
  - Site preparation.
  - Prescribed burning.
  - Other Agro-forestry practices.

A revised agricultural producer definition will be incorporated by NHQ in the next amendment to Part 515 of the Conservation Programs Manual. Until then, offices should use the above guidance to make agricultural producer determinations for forest producers. Forest producers must meet all other eligibility requirements regarding conservation compliance, Adjusted Gross Income, control of the land, etc. The determination for all other persons remains as specified in Part 515.61.

Questions should be directed to your ASTC(FO) or from the Area to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC, FO, ARC, EQIP State Office Team